

No symptoms since the operation.

NUMBER 12.—A boy, aged nine years, complained of abdominal pains for several months. X-ray examination reported calcified abdominal glands. Abdominal palpation was normal. At the operation of appendicectomy no pathology was discovered and there were no palpable glands.

Seen two years later he reported complete freedom from his abdominal pains.

CONCLUSIONS

The recognition of occult appendicitis in children is an important part of the work of a children's hospital and may save life or serious abdominal trouble in the adult.

A consecutive series of fifty cases have been investigated and followed up. Only four cases have failed to report.

The operation mortality was nil.

Twenty-six cases had tenderness in the right iliac fossa. Twenty cases were free from signs on abdominal palpation, and in this group were four of the five thread worm cases.

X-ray examination is of value in those cases which have symptoms, but no signs.

Attacks of umbilical or right-sided abdominal pain in a child, with tenderness in the right iliac fossa, justifies the diagnosis of appendicitis in the absence of any other signs or symptoms. Attention is drawn to the mucosal colour changes, which we believe are evidence of appendicitis.

REVIEW

THE PHYSIQUE OF YOUNG ADULT MALES. By W. J. Martin, D.Sc., Ph.D. Pp. 66. H.M. Stationery Office. 1s. 3d.

This memorandum, compiled by Dr. W. J. Martin and his associates and issued by the Medical Research Council through His Majesty's Stationery Office, price 1s. 3d. net, gives a very accurate and detailed review of Britain's young manhood in the year preceeding the Second World War.

During this period The Medical Examination of the National Service Call Up under the Military Training Act of 1939, which involved 91,513 young men between the ages of 20 and 21, with certain exemptions, gave an unique opportunity to the Statistical Research Unit, of which Dr. Martin was a member, to assemble data of the utmost importance for inspection to-day and for future reference.

The records examined contained particulars of place of birth, nationality, age, trade, eyesight, weight, height, chest circumference, medical grade, physical defects, and medical history.

Dr. Martin presents a full analysis of the anthropometric measurements, medical grades, and standards of eyesight. The records confirm that "the degree of urbanisation is an important factor in the vital statistical experience of the Country; mortality progressively increases with increasing density of population."

Again, the data show that "the countryman is, on the average, superior in health and physique; he also has better eyesight than his counterpart in urban areas, and the latter is slightly all round better than the townsman."

The appendix is comprised of details of tabulated data covering thirty-four pages, and covers the fifteen main regions of Great Britain, with all the information required both by the statistician and those interested in anthropometry.

G. G.